

Pioneers

another gentleman wandered from camp and perished. It was between twelve and one o'clock that night before they camped. They spent the next day drying their clothes and burying their dead. They then continued their journey. The women and children gathered buffalo chips to make fires along the way when they camped.

As the journey was continued everyone was beginning to get tired, weary, sorefoot and hungry. Their rations had been cut to one-half pint of flour a day for each person. Their clothing was getting thin and ragged, but still they felt to trust in the Lord and trudged on their way trying to be happy. At night when they camped they formed a circle with their carts and pitched their tents in the center. Some one was always guarding the camp.

When they were about two hundred miles from Salt Lake Valley they were caught in heavy snow storms, which made it difficult for the people because they couldn't make a fire to get themselves warm. President Young with a small company of men met them in Emigration Canyon and gave them all the relief possible and led them into the valley on September 26, 1856.

Elizabeth Cunningham Kelly.

The company was made up of emigrants from Scotland, Denmark, and England. James G. Willie was in charge of the company. Such companies were called and are now known as the "Hand-cart Companies." No one on earth will ever know the hardships and difficulties and trials that these Mormon converts had to undergo. Time nor space will permit any lengthy stories concerning them, but the writer would like to relate a few incidents that transpired which these undaunted Saints had to meet.

At one time Elizabeth, the subject of our sketch, was left for dead on the plains, as she was thought to be frozen to death. The ground was frozen so hard that they could not dig a grave so they just wrapped her in a blanket and laid the body on the ground and hurried on to make camp for the night, as darkness was fast overtaking them. After they had made camp, the mother of Elizabeth felt impressed to go back to the child. Her friends ridiculed the idea, but the mother was determined, for she maintained that the child was not dead. She had been promised in Scotland that if she was faithful, that she and all her family would reach Zion in safety. She went back to the child and found her undisturbed by the wolves. She carried the child back to camp and worked over her. Some hot water was spilt on her foot and it caused a quiver to go through the limb. Convinced that she was still alive, they kept up their efforts until they brought her back to life. This is the Elizabeth who lived to be the mother of thirteen children, and the foster-mother of three others.

So we today enjoy this beautiful land, part of which is the result of the VICTORY OF THE HANDCART COMPANIES.

"Heart Throbs of the West" Vol 1: 87



*"For some must push and some must pull,
As we go marching up the hill;
So merrily on the way we go
Until we reach the valley, O!"*

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